

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A connector assembly for attaching a hardware component and a trim panel to a vehicular structure, said connector assembly comprising:
 - a shank including a head end and an anchor end for securing the hardware component to the vehicular structure; and
 - a head operatively coupled to said shank, said head including a trim retaining end for securing the trim panel, a shank engaging end, and a break neck therebetween,wherein said trim retaining end breaks from said head at said break neck when a load is applied to said head allowing removal of the trim panel from the hardware component and the vehicular structure.
2. A connector assembly as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said shank further includes a chamber extending between said head end and said anchor end.
3. A connector assembly as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said chamber is threaded.
4. A connector assembly as set forth in Claim 3, further including a screw threadedly inserted in said chamber.
5. A connector assembly as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said shank includes a bulbous portion that expands radially outward when said screw is received in said chamber.
6. A connector assembly as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said head further includes an upper disc and a lower disc, and wherein said trim panel includes at least one boss for receiving said upper disc while said lower disc abuts a lower surface of said boss.
7. A connector assembly as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said head is operatively coupled to said shank by a plurality of prongs received within a corresponding number of recesses formed in said head end of said shank.
8. A connector assembly as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said head end of said shank includes a shoulder, said recesses being formed in the shoulder of said head end of said shank.